METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR AUTOMATICALLY DISSEMINATING INFORMATION OVER A NETWORK

Abstract of the Disclosure

An information distribution program (36) is provided for automatically

5   distributing information over a network (24) connecting a plurality of computers (15). Each computer (15) is installed with the information distribution program (36), which comprises a family construction module (44), a publication module (40), a subscription module (42), and an information tree (46). The information tree (46) stores the most recent information available to the

10   computer (15). The family construction module (44) organizes the various computers (15) connected to the network (24) into immediate and extended families of related computers (15). The publication module (40) automatically distributes, "publishes" or "pushes" the information to the immediate and extended family members of a computer (15) which have shown an interest in the information. The

15   subscription module (42) provides a computer (15) with the ability to show interest in or "subscribe" to information located on the computers (15) connected to the network (24).